

ESPLOST COMMUNITY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE – MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting Date: July 13, 2021 8:30 am in HT Edwards, Heritage Conference Room and by virtual attendance.

Attendees: Alex Sams Rick Parker Nancy Hart Smith Wilson Mike Waldrip
Andrew Malec Lara Mathes Erwin Greene Greg Davis Patricia Yager
Xernona Thomas John Gilbreath Troy Basset Gerald Arcscott

Staff Reports: Copies of the following were distributed:

- June, 2021 Meeting Summary
- July, 2021 SPLOST Monthly Report
- July, 2021 SPLOST Contingency/Change Order Report
- July, 2021 Construction Schedule
- May, 2021 SPLOST 5 Revenue Monthly Trend
- May, 2021, 2020 SPLOST 5 Financials
- May, 2021 SPLOST 5 Budget Projections

West Broad Campus – A report is being prepared for the Superintendent’s consideration reviewing the cost and other implications of renovating the two-storey building. Budget estimates from the contractor will be received shortly. This takes into consideration proposals from the Preservation Architect. The Superintendent will review the information and make a decision. She reminded the Committee that her first priority, and that of the BOE is to make provision for the education of children. There was discussion on how decisions were made concerning the renovation/re-building of the HT Edwards building. This involved vigorous debate with the heritage user group. The eventual outcome was substantial demolition while retaining key features such as the appearance of windows. The meeting was reminded that the same process has been followed with West Broad (albeit hindered by pandemic limitations). The local committee, involving close neighbors of the school and several who attended West Broad, have been involved from the outset, have contributed to layout and design charrette activity and have been largely supportive of the outcome agreed by the BOE. Some of that group are actively involved in gathering the history of the school for use in markers and other methods of retaining the historical link. It is only very late in the process that objections have arisen, largely from those who have no direct connection with the site.

Board HQ: Work is progressing well on the abatement measures, the elevator shaft demo is complete and framing is beginning. Many of the chapel ceiling metal panels cannot be saved so replacements are being reviewed. The Ellard house does not justify the cost required to bring it into use, which is why it was excluded from the work. The initial intention was for this to be used as the Parent Information Center, with the advantage of the many visitors being kept separate from the main building reception. An appraisal of the three houses on the site is being obtained. Two would remain in position but one would need to be removed. There was some concern that this could cause controversy.

Clarke Middle School: Discussion have taken place with the school Principal to consider the implications of having temporary classrooms, where they might be located and how that would work. The Local Building

Committee will be re-convened once school is back in session. Staff are being encouraged to visit the other middle schools to see the work that has been done. The timeline to qualify for capital outlay funds from the DOE requires a site layout plan to be submitted to them by July 1, so the construction start date would be summer next year. Funding is \$10m from ESPLOST 5 and the balance from ESPLOST 6. The archaeologist's written report has not yet been received but he has indicated that there are no issues with regard to the cemetery. He has done other projects in the area, so is familiar with the site.

School C: The risk hazard assessment of the suggested "swap" site states that there are four hazards, any one of which would disqualify it as a school site. Two of those are incapable of any mitigation. The DOE has stated that they would not over-ride such an assessment so the suggested site should be considered as unsuitable and will not be entertained. This information has been provided to the Realtor group and we consider this matter closed.

Cedar Shoals Field-House: Discussions have taken place with Cedar Shoals staff as a first step to developing the brief for the fieldhouse. A decision will be made on the engagement of the architect or to let the work as a design and build contract. Reference was made to the expectation that the project will proceed promptly.

Early Learning Center Kitchen Extension: This a design and build contract. The drawings are being finalized. With the ELC on a 2-3 week break work is starting on demolition. When the children return meals will be delivered out of the HT Edwards kitchen and served in classrooms.

Transportation & Technology: Five propane powered buses, partially funded by ESPLOST 5, were delivered in June.

COC Membership: Alex Sams encouraged COC members to seek out other candidates to join the Committee.

ESPLOST 6: A presentation was made to the BOE in June on the ESPLOST 6 program. Four board members attended. The major projects are Clarke Middle, Cedar Shoals, Gaines, Alps and Cleveland schools (\$90m) and Technology (\$22m). It is anticipated that \$120m (\$2m per month) sales tax will be raised. The BOE presentation will be e-mailed to COC members. Andrew Malec agreed to consider being the liaison person for promotion of the ESPLOST referendum. Referendum papers will go to the BOE for approval in August.

Sales Tax Revenue: The May figure was \$2.44m, continuing the trend of \$2m per month for over a year.

Future Meetings

Future meetings are scheduled for:

August 10, 2021

September 14, 2021

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30am.